

Agricultural Department.

CONDUCTED BY ALBERT CHAPMAN.

Natural Laws, and their relation to the Farmer.

BY HON. F. D. DOUGLAS, OF WISCONSIN.

CONCLUDED.

But, says an objector, of what use is all this learning to the farmer? Our fathers got along without it, and so have we thus far. True, but our fathers found here a virgin soil, rich in all the elements of plant life. This natural deposit has been greatly reduced, and comparative sterility taken the place of superior fertility. This has been brought about by the agricultural vandalism of the past three generations. Farms, where once large crops of wheat, corn, and other grains could be raised on any of the arable land, now, if raised at all, only on comparatively small areas, and by the application of patent fertilizers, or by placing the entire farm under contribution to supply the necessary manure.

If this process of depletion is continued, much of the land in our State must be abandoned for agricultural purposes, and indeed much that was once fertile has already been left to the growth of bushes and briars, and thousands of acres more scarcely pay for fencing, by the scanty pasturage which they afford.

We hear complaints, too, that the farmer's lot is a hard and slavish one, and that his business does not pay. From what class of farmers do these complaints come? From those whose wheat fields yield thirty bushels per acre, or those whose average yield is but ten? Whose corn fields yield sixty bushels per acre, or those who get but half that yield? Whose sheep produce eight pounds of wool per head, while they sell their increase at high prices because of their superiority of blood, or from those who annually receive three or four pounds, and sell their surplus stock at piling prices? Those whose horses are so bred that they will command the highest market prices, or those who breed scrub stock? Those who have increased the productive capacity of the cow to three hundred pounds of butter per head yearly, or its equivalent, or the average farmer whose cows produce less than half that amount? Who complains that farming is a slavish and menial calling? Only those who conduct the business in a stupid and thoughtless manner.

But, says another, when have we time to learn all this? I reply, when can the lawyer, the clergyman, and the doctor find time to master their professions? They begin in youth, and make their business their study, and those who are most successful, bend all their energies to the acquirements of the science which they profess to teach or practice. The farmer cannot reasonably hope to master his profession in any other manner; he must study, think, and investigate for himself. If he has not the means to enable him to devote three or four years exclusively to study, he can at least acquire habits of observation, and mental application, which will make his farm a school for his own education, and that of his sons, also. Such a habit, with convenient access to a good library, in the reading of which he can spend his winter evenings, is far better for a practical farmer, than the pursuit of a college course, even in our so-called Agricultural College, without this habit.

The farm is the only place where the farmer can obtain a practical agricultural education. It is to him what the laboratory is to the chemist—the place to acquire, or at least to perfect, his agricultural education. The time in which to acquire it is as long as that which he spends upon the farm, even if it be three or four years. If he is not a good scholar, and ambitious, he will master his profession; but if stupid or indolent, he will find little to learn in connection with it.

Our fathers accepted a low position in society, and taught their sons to look upon the pursuit of the learned professions as more elevated and honorable than their own, because more intellectual. They regarded professional men as their mental superiors, and accorded to them the right to do the thinking and speaking for the public, if not for themselves. The time has been when a lawyer had more influence in shaping public opinion, upon all important questions, than a score of average farmers; and that is not wholly past. Intellectual superiority should be recognized wherever we find it, and it will be, whether we would have it or not, and I am sorry to say, even if unconnected with moral integrity. The question is not one of dollars and cents alone, but of positions of honor and of worth. Shall we plod on in the old way and surrender these, or shall we set ourselves to rise to the possession of them?

The time is not far distant, when, like our brethren in England and Germany, we shall be obliged to bestow more thought upon our business, or sink into hopeless poverty, and oblige our posterity to emigrate to some other naturally fertile field, to there repeat the vandalism of their fathers. The rich prairies of the west are now being thus depleted by those who have emigrated from New England. When these new fields are exhausted, and our descendants compelled to make farming a mental, as well as a physical pursuit, then will agriculture, and the agriculturist, be elevated to their true positions.

The model farmer possesses those active habits, that practical turn of mind, that intuitive forecast of the future state of the markets, that general intelligence, and strict integrity, which, combined with a scientific knowledge of his calling, will always insure success. You will observe that this implies a great deal, nothing less than that the farmer should be a well-developed man, and that calling tends more certainly and directly to a full, manly development, than that of the agriculturist when properly pursued.

We farmers may be low and groveling in our habits, rough and lowly in our manners, thoughtless and weak, intellectually narrow, superstitious, and bigoted in our views, dwarfed and deformed in our physical development, we may drag out a miserable, slavish existence, but if so, it will not be the fault of our occupation. The members of the so-called learned professions may

do this. It is for us to determine whether it shall be pursued in a manner calculated to elevate ourselves or not. Whether it shall contribute to a healthy physical development, a sound mental growth, and to those noble, moral qualities, which characterize a well-developed manhood. Let us remember that the most important crop to be matured is the farmer and his household, and let our business be so conducted, that it will contribute to this great end. If we study those natural laws by which we develop our business, we must inevitably be developed ourselves, and thereby rise to a higher civilization and a nobler life.

In conclusion, let me say, that the true index to the development will be found in our works. Not, indeed, in the amount of money which we shall succeed in hoarding, but in the evidences of culture and thrift which will appear around us; in our homes and their surroundings, in the improvement which we shall make upon our farms, in our gardens, orchards, and meadows; in improved crops, stock, and implements of husbandry. A photograph of these, and a nobler life, and the habits, intelligence, and thrift of their possessor. It does not appear more obviously in the expensive surroundings of the costly palace, than the simple adornments and surroundings of the humble cottage. If right habits of thought and application exist, they will, like all true Christian virtues, show themselves in the works which they inspire.

Sowing Grass Seed.

ED. OREGON FARMER.—The time is at hand for sowing grass seed. The question is often asked when to sow, what kinds and how much to sow.

Our experience of twenty-five years will give us the benefit of your thousands of readers. We try to sow in March on the last snow of winter. Eight quarts of timothy and four quarts of clover will give a good seed. Never failed to have the clover do well but twice in twenty-five years. Last year we sowed a little too early, and I lost most of the clover on all but four acres, which we sowed a week later and had a splendid catch. We have sowed clover all the way from the 10th to the last of March. Late years I put in, say two quarts of red top, which will hang on and come in when the other grasses fail. In a recent article orchard grass is recommended to mix for permanent pastures; think I shall try it this year.

Millet—Hungarian Grass.

When do you sow these, how, and how much per acre?

O. N. L.—Sow from April 1 to July, any time; sow broadcast, and not less than three-fourths of a bushel for seed, or a bushel and a half to two bushels for hay, per acre.

Hungarian and millet are cultivated alike, but the former is better for hay. It resists drought with great pertinacity, and does well on dry, light soils. When sown thickly it does not head out readily, and makes a fine, nutritious hay. The prejudice that exists in some minds against this grass, is not well founded. When sown thinly and ripened, it produces a large quantity of seed, and this fed to horses without judgment, has produced unfavorable results. If cut before the heads mature, any trouble from this source is avoided.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!

A PROLIFIC SOW.—Charles L. Pad dock, of Meriden, Ct., has a sow, a cross of the Grise and White Chester breed, six years old next April, that produced pigs as follows:

February, 1870, she had 14 pigs, sold for \$36.00
Sept. 1871, " " 13 " 65.00
Sept. 1872, " " 11 " 65.00
Sept. 1873, " " 12 " 84.00
Sept. 1874, " " 11 " 55.00
Sept. 1875, " " 11 " 24.00
Sept. 1876, " " 11 " 55.00
Sept. 1877, " " 12 " 72.00
Sept. 1878, " " 13 " 41.00
In five years, 124 " \$729.00

STRAWBERRIES do well in a deep, rich, sandy loam, light, well drained and nearly level. The plants may be set in spring and fall, but the former seems to be preferable. Water with liquid manure, keep down the weeds, keep off new runners, and strawberries thus treated will do well almost anywhere, and give as certain a crop as any other garden product. They are a favorite fruit, may be grown easily, and should be the people's luxury.

Unslaked lime is excellent for cleaning small steel articles, such as jewelry, buckles, and the like.

Eleven Larrabee, of Greenfield, sold twelve sheep to W. H. Barlow, of Shelburne, to take to Boston market, that averaged 180 lbs. each.

The Oregon Grainger makes the prediction that in twenty years the export of prunes from Oregon will be greater in value than the exports of wheat.

The Milwaukee (Wis.) Commercial Times of Thursday says: "Butter is a drug in this market. The stock is large—good shipping 15c20c; good family 20c22c."

Windsor Co., Vt., is said to have one year's stock of butter on hand; too much for present low prices, when in season it might have been sold for 40c and upwards.

E. E. Hovey, of Waterford, Vt., refused thirty-eight cents a pound for 1200 pounds of butter last January and has just sold it for twenty-five. Such cases are not rare about these days.

F. H. Newell, of East Brookfield, Vt., has made the past season from four Jersey cows, one a two-year old, 1140 lbs. butter, besides the milk and cream used in the family of five, as usual in such seasons.

HEAVY CALVES.—A. J. Benedict, Esq., of Cornwall, lately killed a calf, seven-eighths Durham, eleven months, one day old, that dressed 555 pounds. He also had a calf of the same blood dropped, that weighed 104 pounds.

Papering and painting are best done in cold weather, especially the latter, for the wood absorbs the oil of paint much less than in the warm weather; while in cold weather the oil hardens on the outside, making a coat which will protect the wood instead of soaking into it.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

AGENTS wanted to sell our complete, authentic LIFE OF LIVINGSTONE, with LAST JOURNAL. Over 500 pages, 125 beautiful engravings, maps, portraits, facsimiles, &c. Exclusively the newest, cheapest and best.

COLUMBIAN BOOK CO., Hartford, Conn.

Thousands of Little Ones STARVED TO DEATH

For want of proper nourishment.

Different kinds of food have been and are now sent to the public, but experience proves that RICELES stands at the head of all others.

Sharp's Rifle Company,

Manufacturers of Patent Breech-loading, Military, Sporting and Groenland Rifles. The best in the world. Winner of the National Rifle match at all other principal matches at Groenland. (See official record).

Sporting Rifle, \$30 to \$35. Groenland Rifle, with Elevations for 1300 yds. \$20 and \$25.

Send for Illustrated Catalogue.

ARMORY AND OFFICE, E. G. WESTCOTT, Hartford, Conn., President.

ADVERTISING.

ALL persons who contemplate making contracts with newspapers for the insertion of advertisements, should send 25 cents to Geo. P. Rowell & Co., 41 Park Row, New York, for their Pamphlet Book (thirty-seventh edition), containing lists of over 2000 newspapers and estimates, showing the cost. Advertisements taken for leading papers in many States at a tremendous reduction from publishers' rates. Get the Book.

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J. L. BUTTOLPH,

MERCHANTS' ROW, MIDDLEBURY.

Dealer in all kinds of



FARMING TOOLS.

Agricultural Implements,

STOVES,

TIN AND HOLLOW WARE.

GLASS, PITTY, TUBS, PAILS, WOOD.

EN BOWLS, BROODS, GRASSMANS.

CLOVER SEED, GARDEN SEEDS.

Lumber, Shingles and Wood

Job Work

Of all kinds done in the best manner and at short notice.

Feb. 15, 1873.

L. G. KINGSLEY.

Ripley's Marble Block,

RUTLAND, VT.

FURNITURE!

Half Upholstered in Repp-English Terry, and

ClampCloth, Easy Rocking, Reclining, Parlor and

RICH PARLOR FURNITURE,

CHAIRS,

Marble, Slate, and Wood Top

CENTER TABLES,

Library, Extension, and

Ladies' Work Tables.

Mirrors, Hat Trees, Whatnots, Cornices,

WINDOW SHADES,

Pureans, Bedsteads, Hair and Washbasin,

MATTRESSES,

Cane, Willow and Wood Seat Chairs, and

kinds of Kitchen Furniture.

CARPETS.

Valvet, Brussels, Tapestry, Ingrain, Dutch and

Heavy Carpets, Sags and Mats, Oil Cloth, Matting

Carpets, Linings.

COFFINS AND CASKETS.

Agent for Shaker's all-right Metallic Burial Case

The best Borne in the State furnished at

lowest prices. Manufacturers of Black Walnut, Chest-

nut and Painted Chamber Suits, Table Cards,

Library Cases, Book Cases and Writing Desks

large stock.

Rutland, March 28, 1873.

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TY

HALL!

No water in long yards.

The fact is, that BARNES

has all of the fixtures

for making good pictures,

And his work attests it in their use.

For the best of the fixtures

one so little expects,

You declare the performance a rise.

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ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS'

WORTH OF

Gents',

Ladies',

Misses' &

Childrens'

Shoes,

Slippers &

Rubbers,

Very Low Prices,

asking the public to call and examine before

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